

Message Text

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60/53

ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCS-01 L-01 DHA-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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R 300008Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179371

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LAST LINE PARA 2 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, JO, US

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN VISA POLICY RE U.S. CITIZENS OF
JEWISH FAITH

REF: DAMASCUS 2833

1. IN ADDITION TO INCIDENT DESCRIBED REFTL, WE HAVE
LEARNED OF ONE INSTANCE IN WASHINGTON DURING PAST WEEK IN
WHICH JORDANIAN EMBASSY DENIED ENTRY VISA TO AN AMERICAN
COUPLE APPARENTLY ON SOLE GROUNDS OF THEIR JEWISH FAITH.
OUR SUBSEQUENT INQUIRY TO JORDANIAN EMBASSY HERE MET WITH
EXPLANATION THAT "RULES HAVE NOT CHANGED" AND THAT
JORDANIAN OFFICIALS ARE INDEED OBLIGED TO DENY VISAS TO
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PERSONS WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE JEWISH OR WHO STATE THEIR
RELIGION AS JEWISH ON JORDANIAN VISA APPLICATION FORMS.
ACCORDING TO EMBASSY, THIS "RULE" IS USUALLY WAIVED IN
CASES WHERE APPLICANT (A) IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO

EMBASSY OFFICERS (E.G., A JOURNALIST), OR (B) COMES RECOMMENDED BY SOME FRIENDLY SOURCE (E.G., GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE INSTITUTION OR OTHER RELIABLE CONTACT).

2. IN JORDANIAN EMBASSY'S EXPERIENCE, MOST JEWISH APPLICANTS FOR JORDANIAN VISAS SIMPLY LEAVE BLANK THAT PORTION OF VISA APPLICATION FORM WHICH PERTAINS TO APPLICANT'S RELIGION. IN SUCH CASES, WE ARE TOLD, VISAS ARE CUSTOMARILY ISSUED WITH NO FURTHER QUESTIONS ASKED.

3. WOULD APPEAR FROM FOREGOING AND FROM INSTANCE REPORTED REFTEL THAT JORDANIAN VISA REGULATIONS PROHIBIT ISSUANCE OF ENTRY VISAS TO PERSONS WHO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS BEING--OR ARE OTHERWISE KNOWN BY JORDANIANS TO BE--MEMBERS OF JEWISH FAITH, UNLESS THEY CAN QUALIFY FOR WAIVER MENTIONED ABOVE.

4. WHILE JORDANIAN EMBASSY APPARENTLY MANAGES IN PRACTICE TO AVOID APPLYING RULE IN MAJORITY OF CASES, DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWISH VISA APPLICANTS IS OF COURSE IN PRINCIPLE OBJECTIONABLE. WE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ABOUT JORDANIAN VISA POLICY AND VIEWS ON UTILITY OF TAKING THIS UP WITH JORDANIANS AT THIS TIME. INGERSOLL

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